

House Resolution 113 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY JACOBSEN

1 A Resolution honoring Father Raphael Assamah for his
2 dedication and service to the residents of Hamburg,
3 Iowa, during the floods of 2019.

4 WHEREAS, the devastating floods of March 2019
5 brought disaster to the lives and livelihoods of
6 residents of southwest Iowa; and

7 WHEREAS, historic levels of flooding in the Missouri
8 River basin killed several people, left thousands of
9 people homeless, and devastated farms, fields, and
10 local businesses; and

11 WHEREAS, the flood victims found strength and
12 resolve to rebuild from a faith source in the form of
13 Father Raphael Assamah; and

14 WHEREAS, when Father Assamah arrived to take
15 his post as pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in
16 Hamburg, Iowa, he did not know that he would be the
17 right man for the right job at the right time, for he
18 was chosen to protect his parish from both the flood
19 and COVID-19; and

20 WHEREAS, while flooding rivers devastated towns
21 and villages along their banks, they also took a toll
22 on the spirits of residents, but the raging Missouri
23 and Nishnabotna rivers were no match for the 5-foot,
24 7-inch, sturdily built and energy-filled priest from
25 the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra, Ghana; and

26 WHEREAS, Father Assamah's Hamburg parish had
27 completely flooded and was only accessible by boat or
28 helicopter, and most items that residents attempted to

1 salvage had to be disposed of; and

2 WHEREAS, fearing the devastation would lead his
3 small parish to despair, Father Assamah deployed a
4 power mightier than mere raging rivers: the power of
5 faith, hope, and charity; and

6 WHEREAS, Father Assamah knew that praying together
7 would strengthen the community's resolve to build
8 together, hope would make the community's future
9 brighter, and charity would bring the community's
10 members together with the larger community of the
11 Diocese of Des Moines; and

12 WHEREAS, despite the church building being under
13 water, the members of the parish were not as Father
14 Assamah kept the community together and moved the
15 Catholic congregation to higher ground at the First
16 Baptist Church, where they prayed, planned, and rebuilt
17 their town despite the new challenge of COVID-19; and

18 WHEREAS, the time has come for Iowans to express
19 their gratitude; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
21 the House of Representatives honors Father Raphael
22 Assamah for his efforts, care, and devotion to the
23 residents of Hamburg, Iowa, during the floods of 2019;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
26 Representatives thanks Father Assamah for his service
27 and designates him an honorary Iowan; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
29 resolution be distributed to the Bishop of the
30 Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, and the Archbishop of the

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1 Archdiocese of Accra, Ghana.